

ICEBREAKER

This week is a topic that requires a lot of sensitivity for two reasons: (1) There are a lot of discrepancies between the way the world views this topic and the way the Bible addresses it, and (2) This topic is deeply personal in more ways than one. How comfortable are you talking about the ethics of sexuality?

THE CONTEXT

Read Deuteronomy 22:1-12. There is a single principle that binds these commands together... the principle of Integrity. Each of the commands is about maintaining the **integrity** of something. That is, a thing should be what it is all the way through and through. If a person is a Jew, they should be a Jew on the outside and on the inside (tassels). If a field is a corn field, it should be corn all the way through. If a donkey belongs to someone, it should belong to that person all the time, even when it is lost. If a person is a man, he should be man outside as well as inside. From that perspective, each of these commands seems to be common sense. How do you feel about these commands?

One conflict between the teaching of the Bible and the modern view of sexuality centers on the notion of integrity. The modern world says, "Who I am and how I should behave can be determined by how I feel." Why is that idea so attractive? What do you think about it?

The Bible takes a different approach. It says, "What you feel and how you behave should line up with who you are and how you were designed." What do you think of that?

GOD'S DESIGN FOR SEXUALITY

Read Deuteronomy 22:13-30. What about these commands do you find confusing or challenging? What about these commands do you find beautiful?

God links sexuality to marriage because his rules about sex bring dignity to women and responsibility to men. What do you think about that?

Does our modern world's view of sex bring dignity to women or responsibility to men? Explain your answer.

It's no secret that I blame men for the predominant view of sexuality in our culture, I blame men for their support of all the ways women are exploited for commercial gain, I blame men for the pressure they put on women for sex and for the culture of harassment that still exists, I blame men for pedophilia, and I blame men for the problem of abortion. Nevertheless, women are not completely innocent. The big question for us is this: What should we do about it? How should Christians live out God's design and expose the lies of our world?

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